

effective therapy for patients with severe epilepsy, but it has not been approved by the State of Texas for patients under 12 years old.

The bottom line is that costs associated with this life-changing procedure often are not covered.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the fast action and cooperation among a University of Texas medical branch physician; the manufacturer, Cyberonics; and Medicaid this procedure was allowed for Keeley. And thankfully her parents, Rob and Christi, informed me that she has only suffered two seizures since the surgery.

While Keeley's story has a happy ending, there are many other children who face the same situation, and very soon I will be in contact with Texas and Medicaid officials to see what can be done to approve this device for all children under 12 years old.

Mr. Speaker, we as Members of Congress must do all we can to make sure that medical policy keeps pace with medical technology.

REPUBLICAN TAX RELIEF

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress has reduced the debt by 51 billion this last year, by 102 billion as the sum that we will reduce the debt by this year. Over the next 10 years under the budget plan that we have put forward, we will reduce it by another \$2 trillion.

Now the question that we are actually debating is whether we should use \$1 out of every 4 of the surplus, of the budget surplus, in order to also give some tax relief, because as my colleagues know, what the Republicans want to do is to eliminate the marriage penalty and give a 10 percent reduction on tax rates as well as phase down the death tax and reduce the capital gains tax. The question is whether we will use this \$1 out of every 4 in the extra surplus to give this tax relief or whether the President and the administration is going to get its way and spend the additional dollars. They are not going to use it to pay down the debt; they want more social spending.

Mr. Speaker, to that end, let me just remind my colleagues we have a trigger that if the surplus starts to decline, we do not phase in our tax reductions.

So I wanted to make that point clear.

RESPONSIBLE TAX CUTS

(Mr. TURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax cutting message is: "You can't trust the Congress," which the last time I checked, they were in the

majority and controlled. Today they propose an irresponsible tax cut scheme that dedicates all of the on-budget surplus to a massive tax cut rather than doing the responsible thing and reducing the national debt, saving Social Security and Medicare.

Where have all the fiscal conservatives gone in the Republican party? I am shocked to hear some members of the Republican delegation here today say that they reduce the national debt more than Democrats. We just voted last week on a bill on the floor of this House where the Democrats said we are going to devote all of the Social Security surplus to Social Security and we are going to devote half of the on-budget surplus to debt reduction, 25 percent to reasonable tax cuts aimed at middle-income Americans and the other 25 percent for further tax reduction and to save Medicare and Social Security.

That is the responsible thing to do.

The Republican tax proposal simply gives only modest tax breaks to middle-income taxpayers. We propose a responsible tax cut that will benefit all Americans.

SUPPORT THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG FAIRNESS FOR SENIORS ACT

(Mr. SHOWS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before the American people today to talk about the high costs of prescription drugs. I have had the opportunity to visit with many of my constituents to address this burdensome problem. Studies prove that senior citizens in Mississippi pay outrageous amounts of money for much needed prescription drugs. For an example, a Mrs. Bruce lives in Federation Towers in Clinton, Mississippi. She enjoyed all the freedoms that should come along with being a senior citizen until the cost of her prescription medicine forced her to move out of her house, into her home with her daughter. She pays \$200 a month for prescription medicine on a fixed income.

Mrs. Bruce told me that without her daughter she could not stay healthy. She wonders what happens to the other seniors in this country who do not have the family support that she does.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of any other issue that deserves being addressed more than the cost of medicine for our seniors. That is why I cosponsored the Prescription Drug Fairness Act for seniors. It is time to do right by our seniors and make them favorite customers, just like the large HMOs in the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, folks like Mrs. Bruce need us.

A REPUBLICAN SHOPPING SPREE FOR THE RICH

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are trying to ram through an \$800 billion tax bill. The Republican tax bill does nothing to save Social Security, nothing to preserve or protect Medicare and nothing to reduce our national debt. The Republican tax bill provides huge tax breaks for America's wealthiest people while providing pocket change for American working families. Tens of thousands for the rich, pennies for working men and women. This is the Republican way. That is not fair, that is not right, that is not just.

Mr. Speaker, we have a chance to finally put our economic house in order, to pay down our national collected credit card. Just when we are in a position to do what is right, the Republican want to go on a shopping spree. The American people and this Congress should do what is right. We should reject the Republican tax bill.

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SUPPORT THE REPUBLICAN TAX PACKAGE

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Republican tax package. For all too many years, hard-working Americans have seen more and more of their money going to Washington, D.C., going to wasteful spending, going to programs that take the tax dollars that those hard-working Americans worked very hard to obtain, and squandering them on programs that do not achieve their directed purpose, but in many ways, make matters worse.

Now, we all support making sure that priority programs that help the poor, help the needy, help our senior citizens get the funding that they need. That is why this tax cut package protects all of the money in Social Security, sets aside the Social Security surplus for the first time. After more than 30 years of liberal Democrats spending the Social Security Trust Fund dollars, we, the Republicans, are setting that money aside. Then, in the end, we still have some money that we can return back to hard-working families in America.

Mr. Speaker, it is the right thing to do. If we leave the money in this town, it will get spent. We have to get the money out of this town in order to get it back in people's pockets.